

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 constitute the pending claims in the present application. Among them, claims 15-26, 31-35, 37, and 42-45 are allowed.

Rejection of Claims 1-4, 6, 27, 29, 30, 36, 38-41 and 46 Under Judicially Created Doctrine of Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 1-4, 6, 27, 29, 30, 36, 38-41, and 46 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 6, and 9 of U.S. Patent 6,503,231 ("the '231 patent") to Prausnitz et al. in view of Japanese Patent Application Publication JP07132119A ("Yoshihiko") to Yoshihiko. Applicants respectfully disagree. However, to expedite allowance of this application Applicants are filing a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent 6,503,231 concurrently herewith, obviating the double patenting rejection.

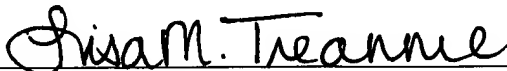
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Should an extension of time be required, Applicants hereby petition for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this submission be charged to **Deposit Account No. 18-1945**.

Respectfully Submitted,

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